

thrown through the Carpathians from Serbia.

Along the battle line before Warsaw from the confluence of the Vistula and Bzura rivers the Pilitza is drawn up in a defensive position that appears impregnable. The plan of the Grand Duke Nicholas is becoming evident and military authorities here prophesy success for the Russian army in the center area to be left to hammer against a stone wall, while great pressure is being brought by the Russians on the extreme of the front in northern Poland and in the southern zone from Cracow to eastern Galicia.

All reports from Petrograd agree that the Austrian advance, which threatened to become serious, has been definitely checked and that the Russians are again demonstrating their superiority over their foe. A large number of Austrians have been taken prisoners within the last twenty-four hours and the Russian lines are being pushed forward expeditiously. At Przemyśl too the Russians are showing renewed vigor and have won an important advance in capturing a line of railway running directly into the city. Along this line the final Russian assault will be delivered and the success of that movement is now considered certain when the Grand Duke Nicholas decides that the moment has come to strike.

The importance of the operations in the Bzura-Vistula region is not underestimated, but the concluding line is drawn from the trend of the fighting along the entire line that the Russians are at last drawn up in the defensive positions to which they have been gradually retreating since the capture of Lodz by the Germans. It is believed now that both sides have reached their limit in bringing up troops to the Bzura River engagement. The Germans are said to have 1,000,000 men concentrated at this point, and the Russians now have about an equal number. There is no room for any more and the conflict will be fought out on an equal basis from now on. Some line stretching under desperate conditions by Russian infantry is known to have prevented a formidable German dash beyond the Bzura. Indeed, at one time a small force had penetrated to within sixteen miles of the Polish capital only to be driven back in disorder by newly arrived Cossacks.

The Russian official statement to-day indicates that the region on the left bank of the Pilitza will see some violent fighting within the next few days. Near Nowe Miasto the armies have been deadlocked since yesterday. On the right bank of the Pilitza the Russians claim success, as they do also in Galicia, where the Austrians seem to have been firmly checked. Russian reports of the capture of a considerable number of prisoners show that the new Russian army, which advanced through the Nida Valley, did not do their work effectually. The Russian statement follows:

On the left bank of the Pilitza obstinate fighting continues in the region of the villages of Jaszew and Rolszawina, about six miles west of Nowe Miasto.

On the right bank of the Pilitza we have made progress in the vicinity of Opoczno and Tomaszow.

In Galicia our success continues. South of the Vistula we captured, during December 20 and 21, 66 officers and 5,600 men, three cannon and 10 mitrailleurs.

In the Carpathians, while pursuing the retreating Austrians, we captured on December 22 30 officers and about 1,000 men.

Near Przemyśl the Austrians attempted a new sortie, during which several of their advance companies were completely annihilated. Other advance companies were taken prisoners. In this affair we seized about a mile of railway leading into the city.

Opoczno is the furthest point of the Russian advance on the right bank of the Pilitza, and the danger of losing control of the line of communications between Warsaw and Cracow is becoming more acute. The Grand Duke Nicholas is making particular efforts to prevent the Germans from continuing their progress in that region. Fresh artillery has been brought into action there and the rapid movement of the Germans is confidently expected.

The tactics of the Russians at present seem to be to hold fast in the center, letting the Germans dash themselves against the apparently impregnable line directly in front of Warsaw and then to keep hammering away at the extreme wings and at other weak places in the line, in the expectation that the invaders will eventually be obliged to withdraw in order to save their central forces.

GERMANS DRIVEN BACK.

PARIS, Dec. 24.—The official statement given to-day contained the following reference to the operations in the east: "On the Bzura River the Germans have maintained themselves in two positions. On the contrary, at a point north of Sochaczew they were driven back to the river, which flows to the southwest of this town. Their efforts to debouch from Dolomow resulted in failure. "At the present time the Germans are endeavoring to cross the River Rawa to the southeast of Skiernewice. To the south of Rawa the Germans are resisting stubbornly a pronounced Russian offensive movement being delivered along the northern bank of the River Pilitza."

CANADIANS AT FRONT TO-DAY.

Princess Patricia's Regiment Reported Sent to Trenches.

OTTAWA, Dec. 24.—Canadians learned to-day by special cable despatches received to-day by the Department of Militia and Defence that the Princess Patricia's regiment will face the foe in the trenches on Christmas Day.

The despatch states that the Canadians are being called upon to relieve one of the crack English regiments, which has been given a rest after holding one of the most difficult positions in the vicinity of Ypres for a considerable time.

FAVOR ITALO-RUMANIAN UNION.

Former Statesmen Telegraph Approval From Bucharest.

BUCHAREST, via Rome, Dec. 24.—Many members of the Rumanian Parliament, including ex-Ministers Lakovari, Neatu and Xenopol, have approved with enthusiasm the propaganda of the Italo-Rumanian League and have telegraphed to the league's promoters, urging the necessity of strengthening the friendship between the two peoples united by origin and aspirations.

TRADE WITH FOES BARRED.

France Forbids Commerce With Germans or Austrians.

PARIS, Dec. 24.—A bill has been introduced in the Chamber of Deputies providing a severe penalty for anybody performing directly or as an intermediary an act of commerce with the subject of a hostile Power or his agents. The measure applies to negotiations on the Bourse and any attempt to realize on securities belonging to Germans or Austrians is liable to punishment.

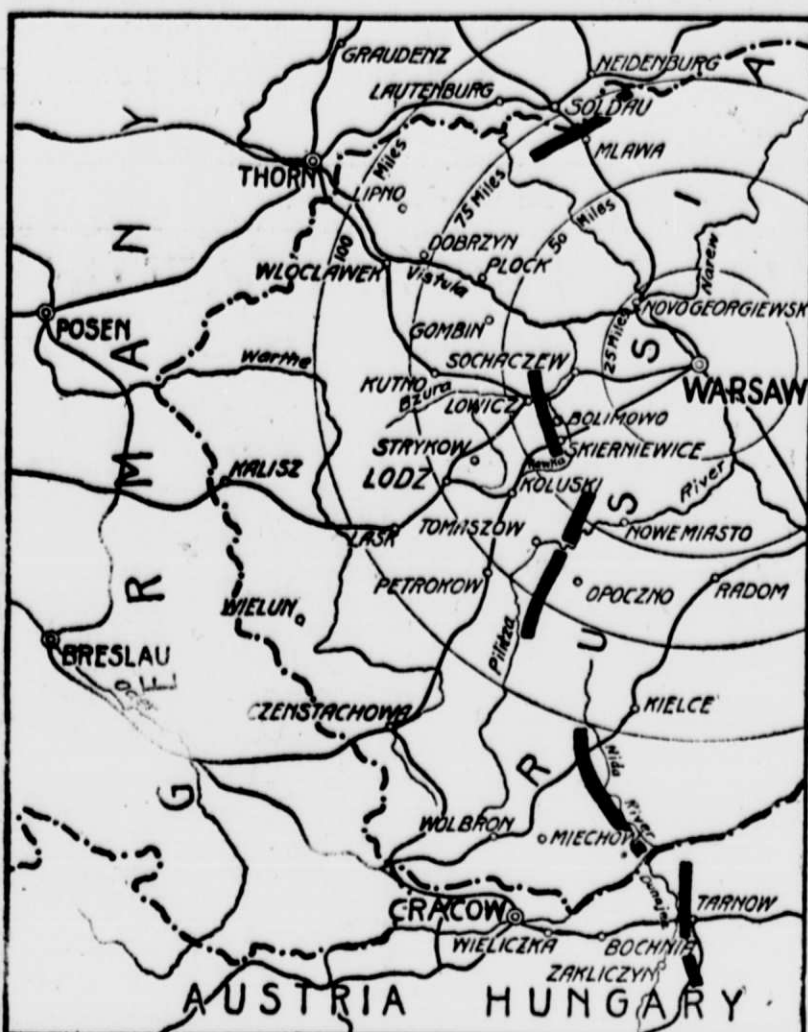
KING ALBERT IN ENGLAND.

Spends Christmas With Family at Earl Curzon's Estate.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—It is understood here that the King of the Belgians will spend Christmas Day in England. Officially the visit is denied and he will come secretly to the country.

Albert will arrive in Folkestone and will motor to Rushmore, the estate of Earl Curzon, in South England, where he is three or four days as a guest. The Queen is either already at Rushmore or will arrive with the King.

After the Christmas dinner the King will return to his army in Flanders. This is his first visit to England since the war began.



THE accompanying map shows not only the great length of the eastern battle-front, which extends from East Prussia to eastern Galicia, but also the way into which the opposing armies have been divided at the important points of contact.

In northern Poland the region of activity is around Mlaw, where the Germans, in the latest Berlin reports, assert they have occupied the positions of the Russian army, which was attempting to execute a flank movement on the German troops in central Poland.

Two more armies confront each other along the Bzura River, only about thirty miles from Warsaw. Sochaczew, a Russian stronghold, is strongly assailed by the Germans. The map also shows the zone of operations at Skiernewice. Both sides claim possession of this important town and the battle there is one of the most severe of the war.

In the region of Tomaszow and Opoczno the Russians claim some success, whereas they admit that the fighting at Nowe Miasto, on the left bank of the Pilitza, the encounter, which has continued for twenty-four hours, is still without an end.

The map also shows the scene of the fighting in southern Poland and in eastern and western Galicia, where the Russians are believed to have dealt another severe defeat to the Austrians.

VICTORY AT MLAWA REPORTED BY BERLIN

German Statement Announces Repulse of Allies in West Also.

LOST TRENCH RETAKEN

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French Forge Ahead, Taking and Holding Many Trenches

German Counter Attacks Fail Near Centre of Great Battle Line and in the Argonne, Where Fighting Is the Fiercest.

BELGIANS PUSH THE OFFENSIVE IN FLANDERS

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

PARIS, Dec. 24.—The official communiqué issued to-day shows unmistakably that the Allies have gained consistently at all important points of contact during to-day and yesterday and have in addition defeated a series of German counter attacks, which are reported to have been conducted with a violence that has not been exceeded since the rival armies engaged in the struggle on the lines now occupied from the sea to the Swiss frontier.

The most severe fighting has been in the Argonne district, where the Allies continue not only to make substantial progress, but to turn their gains to decided advantage by organization and strengthening of the captured territory. The recurrence of a German offensive at many points is regarded by military experts here as a certain indication that the enemy is beginning to feel the weight of the Allies' attack and realizes that passive defence will no longer suffice. From this point of view the success of the Allies in repulsing here counter attacks is one of the most encouraging features of the newly developed situation.

The fighting in Flanders has taken second place for the time being and all attention is directed to the French advance in the Argonne. If this progress on both sides of the German wedge at St. Mihiel can be maintained for a few days longer it is regarded as certain that the Germans will either have to withdraw their forces at that point or else weaken other parts of their line to prevent envelopment.

Advance Well Organized.

The communiqué issued at 10:45 o'clock to-day is a direct supplement of the afternoon war office report in that it deals specifically with a number of points mentioned and shows that the offensive is not a spasmodic affair but a carefully conceived and thoroughly executed military programme. The night report mentions, as did that of the afternoon, that the fighting in Flanders has been mainly confined to the artillery and that in France the efforts of the Allies during the early part of to-day's conflict were devoted to holding off the Germans, who attacked with a spasm of fury, but were repulsed by the organization of the trenches won from them yesterday by the French. The night communiqué follows:

North of the Lys the enemy bombarded rather violently the neighborhood of the road from Ypres to Comines and the environs of Lange-march, but made no infantry attack. Before Boiselle, northeast of Albert, our troops have made slight progress. Last night a German attack on the St. Marwood, east of Tracy-le-Va, was repulsed. We are organizing the trenches taken the day before yesterday near Puisseleire. The ground won by us in the Ban de Sapt, near Lamou, north of St. Die, has been maintained and organized.

No important news has come from the rest of the front.

The afternoon report details at considerable length the various attempts of the Germans to regain ground captured from them in previous days, all of which were repulsed, and also tells of several distinct advances by the Allies, notably at Mes-

nille-Hurlus, where the French occupied 400 yards of German trenches, at the same time rolling back a counter attack. The report also indicates that there will be a resumption of the offensive in Flanders within a short time. The Belgian troops did especially effective work in pushing forward along the right bank of the Yser to the south of Dixmude, where they organized a defensive work, from which it is believed that another attempt to recapture Dixmude will be launched shortly.

Progress on Whole Line.

From the sea to the Lys we made progress by sapping operations in the dunes, and we repulsed an attack in front of Lombardzyde. At Zwartelen, to the southeast of Ypres, we occupied a group of houses, and we drove back as far as the southern part of this village a counter attack of the enemy; this was done in spite of a very spirited fire from the German artillery.

Certain detachments along the right bank of the Yser to the south of Dixmude, and organized a defensive work, protecting a bridge head.

To the east and to the southeast of Amiens, especially in the suburbs of Launay, there have been artillery exchanges.

In the region of the Aisne the Zouaves during all day yesterday held back brilliantly a number of attacks. They remained masters at a point near the road of Puisseleire of the German trenches occupied by us December 21.

In Champagne we strengthened the positions taken by us in our advance of the night before in the region of Craonne and Rheims.

In the vicinity of Perthes all the counter attacks of the enemy on the positions captured by us December 22 were successfully repulsed. To the northwest of Mesnil-les-Hurlus we occupied German trenches for a distance of 400 yards, and we drove back a counter attack. The Germans endeavored to take the offensive in the direction of Ville-sur-Tourbe, but our artillery dispersed them.

In the Argonne we took possession of a piece of ground in the forest of La Grurie, and in the vicinity of Hagelatte we repulsed a German attack.

In the region of Verdun the prevalence of fog made impossible the conduct of any operations of importance. The enemy delivered a counter attack but without success in the forest of Conservoy.

In the forest of Apremont our artillery demolished and caused the enemy to evacuate several trenches. In the Woëvre district the French artillery repulsed certain German batteries to silence.

In the region of Ban de Sapt, to the northeast of St. Die, our infantry advanced with a rush and established itself on the territory thus gained.

There is nothing to report from upper Alsace.

Thick fog has again hindered operations around Verdun and at other points of the line. It is unofficially reported that the British fleet off the Belgian coast is

prepared to move closer to the shore to aid the Franco-Belgian troops in their contemplated resumption of the offensive in Flanders.

From all points along the battle line comes the report that the new French heavy artillery continues to maintain its advantage over the Germans and that this feature is largely responsible for the encouraging success of the attacks on hitherto impregnable German fortifications.

ALLIES GAIN AT LILLE.

"Advance Toward Clearing It of Enemy" Reported.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun. LONDON, Dec. 24.—A correspondent of the Times on the Belgian frontier says: "There is reason to believe that an appreciable advance has been made toward clearing Lille of the enemy."

LILLE PAYS \$1,400,000 "FINE."

Second War Tax of \$200,000 Is Due January 1.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun. PARIS, Dec. 24.—A letter received here from M. Fabreguettes, Judge of the Court of Cassation at Lille, says that fifteen civilians were killed and several hundred houses destroyed during the bombardment of the city on September 10. A number of hostages have been taken to the citadel each day by the Germans, new ones replacing them on the following day. There is sufficient food and the supply of bread is holding out. A thousand German soldiers are in the hospital with typhoid fever and there are 200 wounded British soldiers in English ambulances who are cared for by the women of Lille. A war indemnity of 7,000,000 francs (\$1,400,000) has been paid, thanks to assistance given by all citizens possessing resources. Another million francs (\$200,000) is due on January 1.

RUSH WORK ON RHINE FORTS.

Fervish Activity Reported on Heights Along the River.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—A correspondent of the Times who has just returned from Germany thinks the most interesting part of Germany at present is the Rhine valley. Fervish work is in progress on the fortifications on the heights along the river and the manufacturing are despatched to the front.

The Benz Company of Mannheim is sending out between eighty and one hundred big high speed automobiles every week. Many armored cars and three airships of the Schütte-Lanz type are being built at Mannheim.

NO CALL FOR JAPANESE ARMY.

Baron Kato Declines to Discuss Possible Request by Allies.

TOKYO, Dec. 24.—Baron Kato, Minister of Foreign Affairs, has informed the budget committee that Japan had not received a request from any Government to send troops to Europe. He refused to say what Japan would do if such a request should be received.

The budget committee has shelved the army increase question for a year. The House will meet to-morrow to decide the question and unless sixty members desert the Seivaku party dissolution of the Diet will be inevitable.

JAPANESE SHIPS OFF PERU.

Lima, Peru, Dec. 24.—Several Japanese merchantmen conveyed by the Japanese battleship Hizen and a Japanese destroyer have arrived off Puerto de Pisco, on the northern coast of Peru. The warships anchored several miles off shore.

The Hizen and the destroyer came from Acapulco, Mexico, and it is supposed, are conveying the merchantmen to some South American port.

600 FRENCH GUNS RAKE ONE LINE OF TRENCHES

After 15 Minutes Shelling Not a German Is Found When Infantry Dash In.

PARIS, Dec. 24.—A correspondent at the front sends a story of the concentrated fire of 600 pieces of French artillery on a comparatively short stretch of German trenches not far from Arras. Infantry, charging after fifteen minutes of the bombardment, found no one to oppose them.

According to the correspondent General Joffre invited Col. Ignatelli, the Russian military observer, and Col. Yarde-Baker, the English observer, to accompany him a few days ago, telling them that they would see "something never seen before." The 600 pieces of artillery were in position and the range had been found. At a word from the commander in chief, which was repeated over the telephone by his aids, the 600 pieces opened fire on the German trenches and the space between them. This was kept up for fifteen minutes, and an order for an infantry charge was given. The infantry was met with not a single shot or a single bayonet. The trenches had been torn to pieces with deadly and accurate fire. The Germans in the heaps of earth. The Germans tried to run were caught by shells falling behind the works.

The correspondent adds that it is probable that not a man was left in the part of the line exposed.

A paragraph in the German official statement of yesterday appears to confirm the foregoing despatch. The German statement refers to serious attacks on German trenches, "which were under continuous artillery fire," adding that the position had to be abandoned "because parts of the trenches were almost levelled by the enemy's fire."

FRENCH CRUISER TORPEDOED

Little Damage Results From Attack of Austrian Submarine.

PARIS, Dec. 24.—M. Aiguier, French Minister of Marine, issued this official statement to-day:

"An Austrian submarine torpedoed a French armored cruiser in the Strait of Otranto. Two torpedoes were fired, one of them exploding forward. The damage done to the vessel was not serious. On December 21 a French squadron, composed of sixteen ships, in the Otranto Channel, the submarine twice successfully torpedoed two battleships of the French fleet, but the consequent confusion among the ships of the squadron, the dangerous proximity of some of the ships and the high sea running rendered it impossible for the submarine to establish certainty the fate of the torpedoed ships."

The French submarine Curie was fired upon by our coast batteries without being able to deliver any attack. The members of her crew were imprisoned.

Our submarine No. 12 attacked on December 21 a French squadron, composed of sixteen ships, in the Otranto Channel. The submarine twice successfully torpedoed two battleships of the French fleet, but the consequent confusion among the ships of the squadron, the dangerous proximity of some of the ships and the high sea running rendered it impossible for the submarine to establish certainty the fate of the torpedoed ships."

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